

[24 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

B. CANALS

Particulars	Earth Work	Lining	Structure
1. Subernarekha Main Canal	87%	—	51%
2. Botnoti Branch Canal	83%	—	33%
3. Subernatckha Branch Canal	Not yet started		
4. Jambhira LBC	Not yet started		
5. Jambhira RBC	98%		77%

West Bengal Portion

Only preliminary works are going on.

Water Management

4252. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after consecutive droughts, the country is likely to face acute water scarcity during coming summer;

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to overcome the situation through proper water management; and

(c) what special efforts are being made to harvest rain and store water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) During the Summer 2001, parts of some States such as Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Himachal Pradesh are experiencing drought like situation due to deficient and inadequate rainfall in these areas during the South-West monsoon in Year 2000 A.D. The rainfall during post-monsoon period has also been scanty in these states.

(b) and (c) The Department of Drinking Supply have relaxed the provisions in the guidelines relating to Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojna (PMGY) for the drought affected States. A Minimum Need Programme (MNP) is also being implemented by Department of Drinking Water Supply.

Water resources development including construction of storages for utilization of water is taken up by the State Governments as per their own priorities. Upto 1995, a live storage capacity of 177 BCM has been created by construction of large dams in the country. Besides, projects to add an additional storage capacity of about 75 BCM are under construction and for 132 BCM are under planning. The replenishable ground water is of the order of 432 BCM, out of which about 154 BCM has been developed for use. With the help of these storages and other minor irrigation schemes as irrigation

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potential of 90 Million hectare (Mha) has been created upto the end of the Eighth Plan against the ultimate irrigation potential of 139.9 Mha in the country.

Government of India is promoting rainwater harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof-top rainwater harvesting under the sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme under the Ministry of Rural Development, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies. The Central Ground Water Board under Ministry of Water Resources is implementing a Central Sector pilot scheme of artificial recharge to ground water through rain water harvesting in different parts of the country.

Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a scheme entitled 'Macro-Management' in all States and Union Territories. This includes watershed management in the catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone rivers and National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas. Under the above two programmes for conserving the rainwater, farm ponds and water harvesting structures are being constructed. Water collected in these structures is being utilized for life saving irrigation to the crops at the time of scarcity of rains.

Water disputes among Northern States

4253. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently voicing concern over the country's inability to produce sufficient power in the past 50 years and on-going river